

YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

今日  
北京

# BEIJING TODAY

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## Time to Pay for China's Online Music

Copyright concerns have crushed the playlists of top music apps. **Page 4**



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Young women are having their babies at school to avoid job discrimination. **Page 5**



## The Puzzle of Saving China's Children

Pia MacRae says there is much work to be done to save China's children. **Page 6**



## Hukou Doors to Open

Beijing hukou, one of China's most notoriously difficult documents to obtain, is becoming a little more accessible.

The city's new point-based system may give young professionals who have made the city their place of home and work a chance to fully relocate and access its education, health and social resources. **Page 2**



## Schools Reward Blood Donors with Gift Cards

BY DIAO DIAO

**I**t's become a yearly tradition: when the mercury drops, so does Beijing's supply of blood.

To encourage students and the public to resupply the blood bank, universities have started offering different tiers of prizes to blood donors.

Xiao Jia (pseudonym), a junior student at Beijing Forestry University, told the *Beijing Youth Daily* that students who donated 200mL or 400mL of blood could receive a 400 yuan or 800 yuan meal allowance.

Xiao Wen (pseudonym), a student at Beihang University, said her school was not as generous. "All donors of any

amount received a 100 yuan deposit in the student ID card and 50 yuan phone recharge card – while they had them," she said.

*Beijing Youth Daily* reporters visited 13 universities across the city to interview students. Rewards varied from giving cash to counting volunteer work credits. Most schools offered between 100 yuan and 800 yuan in supermarket shopping cards, phone cards, meal cards and other subsidies.

Renmin University did not offer cash rewards. Blood donors were instead offered "ability credits." The Central Academy of Drama provided free meals to

donors and a two-day holiday.

The Beijing Red Cross Blood Center said the rewards were arranged and offered by the schools, not the blood center.

Some rewards were tied to the type of donation being performed. Xiao Wei at the Central University of Finance and Economics said that donating platelets or plasma was rewarded differently.

"Donating some blood components takes longer than just donating blood. It can also be more painful," he said.

Some students said the rewards were too heavily advertised, and that material compensation goes against the spirit of volunteer work. ■

### CHINESE STOCK INDEXES

#### SSE (Shanghai)

Close	Change	YTD
3,579.99	▲ 63.81 (1.81%)	+10.68%

#### SZSE (Shenzhen)

Close	Change	YTD
12,825.48	▲ 314.45 (2.51%)	+16.44%

#### HSI (Hong Kong)

Close	Change	YTD
21,872.06	▲ 170.85 (0.79%)	-7.34%

Accurate to market close on December 31, 2014





## Ticket Bookers Stumble Over Verification Codes

BY DIAO DIAO

**A**lthough train booking for Spring Festival opened in early December, few passengers have been able to book their tickets because the verification codes used by 12306.com were completely unreadable.

The codes are a new addition to the

booking system this year to thwart scalpers who often use software to buy up all the tickets for the most popular routes.

Initially, the verification codes were easy to answer. But passengers looking to buy tickets during the last two weeks have found them increasingly difficult

NEWS

to identify.

On December 3, 360 Browser published data showing that there are more than 581 verification images used on 12306.

Each time, the system requires passengers to recognize two keywords from the pictures. There are more than 336,980 different combinations, and the chance of getting through the verification successfully is only 8 percent.

There are 12 categories of verification codes.

The plants and animals category includes lizards, penguins, dinosaurs, lotus leaves and dragonflies; the food and fruits category includes youtiao, leeks, sandwiches, prunes and pineapples; the daily items include windshield wipers, toothbrushes, brooms, shovels and hot water bags.

Other catalogs include office supplies, outdoor and sports, electrical devices, jewelry, transportation, traditional arts, public facility and special nouns.

Passengers have to get through the verification process before logging in and booking tickets. However, many passengers failed because it's hard to tell the difference between some items and pictures – especially since many of the pictures are not clear enough.

The most confusing, according to 360, were the ones asking users to differentiate between a tangerine and orange, a box and storage box, a garlic bulb and garlic sprout and an octopus and squid.

There were also things that young people who were born in 1990s don't recognize, such as cans of kerosene, sewing machines and inkstone. Art students also reported difficulty in recognizing dry ice, power generators and ventilators.

A product manager for 360 told *Beijing Youth Daily* that 12306's verifying code evolved from simple numbers to numbers and characters, calculations, deformed letters and letters with disturbing lines before arriving at the current pictures. ■

## Beijing Considers Point System to Admit Non-Locals

BY YANG XIN

**A**draft regulation released by the Legal Affairs Office of the Beijing Municipal Government on December 10 disclosed a plan to put forward a points-based residence registration system for non-Beijing residents seeking Beijing residence, or hukou.

According to the draft regulation, applicants must be younger than 45 years old, have a temporary residence permit, have paid social security insurance in the city for at least seven consecutive years and have no criminal record.

Aside from basic requirements, applicants are expected to accrue additional points based on their educational background, employment status and property. For example, those holding a bachelor's degree will be awarded 15 points while Ph.D graduates will be awarded 39 points. Applicants living in suburban districts will also be given an additional 12 points.

The regulation, once in effect, may offer hope to the city's floating population who have secured a home and long-term work but who still lack access to insurance and schools.

The draft did not specify the number of points needed to obtain a hukou. The minimum threshold will be adjusted from year to year according to changes in the city's population.

The draft regulation came as the municipal government stepped up efforts to control the size of the central population and push out migrants employed in low-end industries.



Photo by joannachi.com

The 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) of the Communist Party of China Beijing Municipal Committee calls for shrinking the population density of the Dongcheng, Xicheng, Haidian, Chaoyang, Fengtai and Shijingshan districts by 15 percent.

The draft has been published for public criticism. It is expected to enter effect after being reviewed by authorities. ■

## Private Parking Lot Holds Cars for Ransom

BY YANG XIN



Photo by Beijing News

**T**he *Beijing News* recently reported a private parking lot in Fengtai District that released cars detained or confiscated by local law-enforcement to owners in exchange for a hefty ransom.

After six months' investigation, reporters at the *Beijing News* discovered that unlicensed cars, after being ticketed by the Fengtai Urban Management Bureau, would be placed in Yingyuan Parking Lot, a private lot that has been cooperating with the district's illegal cars administration office, the Fengtai Urban Management Bureau and the district traffic detachment since 2010.

Owners of the confiscated cars were told by some staff to pay a 5,000-yuan fee to release their cars on the same day. Even illegal electric tricycles could be obtained after confiscation for a 1,500-yuan ransom.

The practice has been documented since April 2012. At that time, staff in the local traffic detachment justified the ransoming procedure by saying parking space was too limited to accommodate all the government's seizures.

"In accordance with relevant provisions, owners of the cars detained by our bureau can go to our office within a specified time and pay the fine at a designated bank before picking up their car," said a staff member at the Fengtai Urban Management Bureau.

The Local Urban Management Bureau suspended cooperation with Yingyuan Parking Lot and announced that it has set up an investigation team for the case. As of press time, there are still car owners planning to pay the ransom and liberate their vehicles.

Wang Yukai, a professor at the National School of Administration, expressed concerns over impartiality of the investigation. "In this case, the law-enforcement department is being tasked with the judgment, even while it is a partner of the unlawful party. It is definitely unreasonable for these departments to dominate the investigation."

Wang called for a third party or a superior department to take the lead. "The Fengtai District Discipline Inspection and Supervision Department would be a good option," Wang said. ■

# Controversy Shadows Deng Yaping's University Appointment

BY YANG XIN

**D**eng Yaping, a 42-year-old former Olympic champion and sitting deputy secretary-general of the *People's Daily*, is at the center of a controversy involving her appointment to the position of adjunct professor at China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) on December 6.

"Deng will join the faculty in our physical education department. She will help design a program for the school's varsity table tennis players," a spokesperson for the school said. The university backed its decision by stating that Deng was given the position to support the varsity table tennis team and forge a vibrant sports culture on campus.

However, the statement did not include any details about Deng's specific responsibilities or her nomination procedure. Both school faculty and students opposed her position.

Yang Yusheng, a professor at CUPL, criticized the university for violating its employment procedures on his personal social media account. Xu Heng, a CUPL student, sent a letter to the school's authority, demanding further explanation of its decision-making process.

Others have shown support for Deng, saying that she is qualified for a professor at the university with her sport and academic achievements.

Deng was reputed the first Chinese athlete to win four Olympic gold medals in table tennis. After retiring from the national team, she acquired a batch of academic distinctions including a bachelor's degree in English from Tsinghua University and a Ph.D in economics from the University of Cambridge.

But none of her academic titles seems to support her nomination as an adjunct professor of physical education.

"Not every Ph.D is qualified to be a professor. Even those who are given the chance to step up to the podium normally start as lecturers. Deng has never had any teaching experience. Actually, her life after retiring from the national team has been occupied by a slew of official titles. No wonder people refuse to accept it," said a commentator under the WeChat official account named "Zhishangjianzhu."

"Even after taking Deng's talent in table tennis into consideration, isn't it more proper for the university to employ a sports teacher than an adjunct professor who shows up only twice a year?" ■



CFP Photos

## Driving License Test Opened for Self Study

BY DIAO DIAO

**A**spiring drivers who want to prepare for their driver's test at home can now study on their own according to a revision to the training and testing system for driving licenses announced by the Ministry of Public Security and Ministry of Transport on December 10.

The new system revises the entire licensing process from learning to practicing, testing and payment. Taxi drivers, bus drivers and other public vehicle drivers are excluded from the reform and must still go through training for their license classes.

Instead of compulsory on-site study and training at local driving schools, the reform says that learners can learn the rules on their own, train for the road test and take the exam at school.

The reform is not without restrictions.

Cars used by learners to train at home must be equipped with assist devices, including a brake and mirror for the co-



driver, a safety certificate, auto insurance and an instructor who has more than five years' of experience with no record of drug or alcohol abuse or serious accidents and who have never lost their license.

After passing the traffic rules test, learners must go to the police station to get a special sign and place it at the right place required by the police to warn other cars on the roads.

The instructor is responsible for any violation of traffic rules by the learner.

Payment is another change in the reform. The average cost of training, practicing testing and getting the license at big driving schools such as Beijing Gongjiao Driving School, Haidian Driving School and Eastern Pioneer Driving School is 5,200 yuan. Learners must pay in advance.

The reform says that learners can pay for each training class after they finish, and they can choose how many classes they need to take at the driving school.

Compared with busy testing days, the reform says that learners can apply for a convenient test time and location instead of waiting in line to share one test car with other learners.

In terms of the test, learners will be assigned a random examiner by the computer to avoid corruption.

China has more than 320 million licensed drivers, and there are more than 30 million new drivers every year. ■

## THE WEEK IN WEIRD

STRANGE HAPPENINGS ON THE CHINESE NEWS WIRE  
BY SU DERUI

### Jiangsu Restaurant Bills Diners for Clean Air

In order to provide a cleaner dining environment, one restaurant in Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu province recently purchased a series of air purifiers and began passing the operating costs on to the customers.

Diners were quick to complain to the Pricing Bureau about a new 1 yuan "Air Purification Fee" being added to their meals. On December 13, the bureau issued a warning to the restaurant about improper billing.

A spokesperson for the the Zhangjiagang Municipal Government said air is a natural resource required by all humans and that the city's catering establishments had the duty to provide breathable air to their patrons, thus it could not be "sold" as a commodity.

(Tencent News)

### Foreign Teen Caught Defacing Shanghai Subway Car

An unidentified foreign teenager was caught using markers and spray paint to draw a half-naked figure and lyrics from TwentyOnePilots' "Ode To Sleep" on the walls of the Shanghai subway on December 12.

The defaced car was used on Line 9 of the Shanghai metro.

A passenger helped the subway to identify the foreigner, a 17-year-old expat who lives with his parents in Shanghai, in the surveillance footage.

Police said the teen was "educated and criticized," and that his parents were fined to cover the cost of cleanup. Under Article 31 of the Shanghai Rail Traffic Management Regulations, graffiti or attempts to deface the subway cars are strictly prohibited.

(ThePaper.cn)

### Chinese Traveler Attempts to Bribe US Customs with Sex

Yang Hong, a 55-year-old Chinese woman who was detained at John F Kennedy International Airport with \$160,000 in undeclared goods, was arraigned on charges of customs fraud in the US on December 7.

During an inspection with US Homeland Security agents, Yang passed the agent a slip of paper with her nickname and phone number. She also offered him \$10,000 to allow her daughter to pass customs with the goods, court records show.

Suspicious, he left the room and returned with a recording device, at which point she upped her offer to sex and tour of China.

Yang's luggage included designer pocketbooks, wristwatches, a fur coat and diamond jewelry.

(New York Daily News)

### Hooker's Client Battles Husband for Love

An man surnamed Gong in Taiyuan County, Hunan province threatened his favorite prostitute's family when she hesitated to leave her husband and follow him, Guangming Online reported.

Gong told Wang, the prostitute, that he would leave his wife for her and she should do the same or he would kill her whole family.

Wang told her husband about the man's advances, and they agreed to confront him. But while on the way there they were stopped by Gong, who began fighting in the street.

Police arrested the three on charges of reckless driving, prostitution and other illegal activities.

(Tencent News)



Photo by ios.25pp.com

# Time to Pay Arrives for China's Online Music

BY SHU PENGQIAN



Photo by jingji.cntv.cn

Fans of QQ Music, Tencent's popular streaming service, have been surprised to discover many of the songs they used to listen to have become unavailable for both play and download.

Attempts to play many popular tracks are met with the message, "This company has not provided us with the authorization to play their music and we are striving to respect copyrights."

Since appearing on QQ Music, similar messages have spread to Duomi Music, NetEase Music, Kugou, TTPod and Xiami.

The trend is a response to the government's increasingly severe control of copyright.

In July, the National Copyright Administration of the People's Republic of China released a notice ordering online music operators to cease spreading music to which they do not own the rights by July 30. Sixteen music platforms quickly purged some 2.2 million songs from their platform.

The age of free streaming in China appears to be coming to an end, and companies are now struggling to find a way to make their users pay. As China's biggest music-streaming platform in China, QQ Music is exploring how to fight its competitors while changing Chinese users' expectation of a free lunch.

## Great Challenge

At the beginning of the year, the National Copyright Administration released an investigative report that found China's digital music market reached 44.1 billion yuan in 2013.

The wireless music market – mostly the sales of ringtone – accounted for 39.7 billion yuan and the online music market for 4.36 billion yuan. There were 453 million digital music listeners using 695 companies that provided music products or services.

The profits to be made in the digital music market attracted more investment from China's Internet giants. China's current online music market has been cared up by Ocean Group, which owns Kugou Music, Kuwo Music and Omusic; Alibaba, which owns TTPod and Xiami; and Tencent, which owns QQ Music.

Conflicts over song copyrights have been a frequent problem for all three, but especially for QQ Music. The cost of resolving its numerous legal disputes related to copyright infringement have made the task of turning casual listeners into paying customers all the more urgent.

An internal poll by Tencent found that 65.1 percent of listeners said they would prefer to download their music through pirated channels if Tencent begins to charge for its services. Only 1.18 percent said they would be willing to pay for the service.

With such low acceptance, it will be hard for QQ Music to find a balance between regulations and its users' demands.

## No Permanent Enemies

On October 13, QQ Music resolved a dispute with its longstanding enemy NetEase Music when Tencent announced it would provide the company with the rights to 1.5 million songs to the company.

Tencent previously banned NetEase Music users from sharing songs on its WeChat in February.

On November 14, QQ Music came to

a similar agreement with Duomi Music. The number of songs it has transferred to the company remains a trade secret.

"QQ Music is not doing this to monopolize the industry, but to protect authorized music," said Andy Ng, general manager of Tencent's Department of Digital Music. "We hope domestic online music market can become organized through the industry's effort."

It's not simple for QQ Music to adopt this strategy.

Its comparatively weak position leaves QQ Music with no choice but to be an agency of transferring and delegating songs' copyright to other companies, because it cannot afford the high expense of purchasing copyrights by itself.

Since August 2014, QQ Music acquired the rights to many songs. It obtained the rights to 1.2 million songs in Warner Music Group's catalog and 400,000 songs from Sony Music Entertainment.

Those songs are only available in China on QQ Music. The exclusive rights have helped it to win many users – but at a high price.

An industry insider speaking anonymously told *Beijing Business Today* that a domestic music company sold the rights to 300 songs to a music platform for 20 million yuan. That works out to a price of 60,000 to 70,000 yuan per song.

"At this price, Tencent could have to spend billions of yuan to purchase song streaming rights from 23 companies."

Since local acceptance of paid services is so low, QQ Music has been transferring some songs copyrights to NetEase Music and Duomi Music. Metaphorically speaking, QQ Music is more like a landlady, receiving rent for transferring music copyrights to NetEase Music and Duomi Music.

That business move also benefits Duomi Music and NetEase Music, which lacked the capital needed to compete with other major players.

## Luring Listeners

QQ Music has been trying to coax users to voluntarily pay to listen to and download music by offering high-quality copies of songs and exclusive content.

Digital albums are QQ Music's other core business.

Singers who sell their digital albums on QQ Music makes a profit, too. Compared with physical albums that are prices 50 yuan or more, buying digital versions of the albums is a good opportunity to fans who can't afford physical media or who are desperate for early access.

QQ Music sales of singer Jay Chou's digital album AIYO, Not Bad – priced 20 yuan at its release in December 2014 – sold more than 160,000 copies. Singer Zhou Bichang released two mini digital albums on QQ Music, each priced 4 yuan. Together they sold 240,000 units.

In addition to premium features and digital albums, QQ Music also hosts online concerts that most fans are happy to pay for.

QQ Music also cooperated with reality shows such as *The Voice of China* (Season 4) and *I am a Singer* (Season 3) to make the songs from each season available exclusively through its platform.

While most users remain unwilling to pay for music, it appears more are recognizing it will eventually be required. ■

# Students Seek Early Motherhood to Succeed in Job Market

BY YANG XIN



CFP Photos

A recent news report about female postgraduates getting married and having babies while in school to ease their entry into the job market has stirred up debate over whether students should be starting families before completing their degrees.

While official figures on postgraduate mothers are unavailable, it is beyond doubt that many colleges and universities in China have witnessed an increase in the number of postgraduate mothers.

Among the 10,000 postgraduate students at Huazhong University of Science and Technology, more than 100 gave birth to their children while at school, said a teacher in the university's family planning office surnamed Zhao.

"Ten years ago, there were fewer than 10 students who would do so," Zhao said.

A youth league teacher at a university in Beijing told *Beijing Youth Daily* that in recent years, there have been dozens of postgraduates applying to have babies in school. "It used to happen to doctoral students, but more and more postgraduates and even undergraduates have been doing the same."

## Individual Motivations

In 2007, China banned schools from expelling students for being pregnant if they were married. The credit system adopted by most domestic universities also granted them the opportunity to temporarily suspend study for up to two years.

For many postgraduates, having a baby before starting a career is not just about starting a family – it's also a shrewd career move.

Under the new Labor Law, mothers are entitled to fully paid maternity leave for up to six months after they give birth. Employers who hire a young mother are spared that cost. Most employers favor candidates who won't require maternity leave.

Apart from employment pressure,



Photo by sohu.com

some female postgraduates get pregnant and have babies simply because they have ample leisure time to do so after school," said Ye Xianfa, a professor at the School of Education in Hubei University.

In a survey by *China Youth Daily*, fewer than 25 percent of respondents opposed having a child at school. In fact, many said it as a good idea.

In an editorial by *People's Daily*, the idea of postgraduate students having babies at school was described as 'embarrassing.' "Instead of giving graduates more bargaining power in negotiating with their future employers by granting them intellectual competence, Chinese higher education forces students to gain advantage by settling their

maternity issues. Postgraduate education contributes nothing to a postgraduate's career path."

## Burdens Foreseeable

The financial challenges of being a parent in grad school are not to be ignored. At present, the state-funded medical service for postgraduates does not include maternity insurance. "In cities like Beijing, you cannot afford the cost of raising a child without sufficient financial abilities," a 7-month pregnant postgraduate told *Beijing Youth Daily*. She has decided to go back home and rely on her parents while preparing to give birth.

Unlike many Western graduate parents who rely on teacher assistant or research assistant stipends, most Chinese student parents count on their own parents or in-laws to assume the burden of expenses in raising a child.

China News Net interviewed a postgraduate mother named Fang Ni who said that without maternity insurance even prenatal care can be a huge financial burden – not to mention postnatal services like babysitting, baby formula, diapers and clothing.

We could never afford having a child were it not for my in-law's financial support, she said.

The time and energy required to raise children within the world of academia is another issue. According to the Beijing Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, to complete newborn babies' household registration formalities, non-local postgraduate mothers are required to return to their hometowns to register their babies.

Xiao Shan (pseudonym), a newly graduated doctor of literature, spent six years studying for her doctoral degree.

"I gave birth to my daughter at school. But she gets sick very often. I've had to take good care of her while continuing my studies. It often drives me crazy. I used to think that being a mother at school wouldn't be hard with

help of my in-laws, but the fact is that I couldn't focus – not on being a mother or being a student."

Pang Yiyi, a postgraduate mother interviewed by *China Youth Daily*, suffered from the double burden of raising a newborn baby and dealing with her professor's dissatisfaction over her performance.

## Unthoughtful Schools

Even with more and more postgraduate mothers in Chinese colleges and universities, students having babies remains a sensitive topic in most domestic university campuses. A survey by *Beijing Youth Daily* showed that some postgraduate mothers still have to deal with their tutors' fury after breaking the unexpected news to their tutors.

But in many schools in the Americas and Europe, student pregnancy and maternity are accepted and protected. Established in 2001 by seven UK higher education institutions, the Equality Challenge Unit aims to cover equality and diversity issues for students by stipulating that all higher education institutions must support pregnant students with legal protection, medical care, accommodations and breastfeeding and rest facilities.

Many UK universities have announced a full set of guiding principles for their pregnant students on their websites, including the University of Sheffield and the University College London.

Most European universities also have a family resource center to make the university community a more family friendly environment. The daily job of staff in the centers is to help pregnant students to arrange childcare, apply for financial aid and meet other student parents.

China did not lift its prohibition on graduate students having babies until 2007. It's little surprise that the country's universities remain decades behind their international peers in their support of pregnant students. ■



Photos by Save the Children



# Save the Children Director Drawn by China's Puzzles

BY SIMINA MISTREANU

**C**hina has made strides over the past few decades in terms of economic growth and the improvement of social services. But many children still fail to benefit from these advances.

Its children today face two categories of problems, says Pia MacRae, country director for Save the Children China: "old problems," which are related to poverty; and "new problems," which are related to the country's rapid development.

The "old problems" are where China has improved a lot over the past few decades.

For example, the country's infant mortality rate has plummeted from 46 infant deaths per 1,000 births, in 1981, to 9 deaths per 1,000 births this year, according to the World Bank. Similarly, literacy rates have grown from 66 percent in 1982 to 95 percent in 2010, according to UNESCO.

But problems stemming from poverty still affect groups of children across China. Disabled children lack access to education that's geared to their needs; children from minority groups for whom Chinese is not their first language risk falling behind; and children in remote rural communities sometimes have to walk for hours to go to school.

"New problems" are related to inequality, children left behind by parents who are migrant workers and changes in families' traditional support networks brought by urbanization, MacRae says.

Save the Children is one of several international NGOs that work to address these problems together with the Chinese government. The UK-based organization has been active here since 1995, with projects including setting up education centers, training medical staff and disaster relief.

MacRae has led Save the Children China since 2011 and manages an annual budget of

about \$10 million. She's British but has lived in China on and off since 1986. All this time, she has tried to decode the country that she describes as "intellectually puzzling."

## 'I was overwhelmed by how little I understood'

MacRae's first contact with China came during college. She was studying at L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and became friends with a group studying Chinese politics.

In the summer of 1986, the group organized an exchange trip to China, and MacRae convinced them to let her come along. In a little over a month, they visited Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai and Wuhan. MacRae was fascinated. She wanted to come back and learn enough Chinese to be able to talk to the locals.

"People often say to me, did I fall in love with China?" she says. "I never felt like it was falling in love. I think I was really intellectually puzzled by China. I couldn't understand; it felt very different."

For example, on their first trip they visited a restaurant where everything on the menu was in Chinese: even the numbers. Back in the 1980s, people were fascinated with foreigners and wanted to learn about the outside world. MacRae recalls that Chinese would ask her group to sing songs by Edith Piaf and explain concepts such as inflation and democracy. The pace of life in Beijing was much slower.

She was undecided about her profession, but she wanted to be able to communicate with the Chinese.

"I was just a young student; I was still in my teens," she says. "I had no idea about professional thoughts. I just felt overwhelmed by how little I understood of China and just interested in the idea of being able to com-

municate with people. It was a very simple human emotion."

After graduation, she returned to China to teach English to medical professionals in Liaoning province. She returned to the UK for her master's degree, which included a year at Sichuan University.

From 1994 to 1997, she worked for the volunteer sending agency Voluntary Services Overseas, managing volunteers in Hunan, Anhui and Jiangxi provinces. She went back to the UK and returned to China in 2001 to work as a corporate social responsibility manager for the oil company BP.

After five years in Beijing, the company sent her to work in India and London. But she returned to China yet again in 2011 to work for Save the Children.

## Working with the Government

Throughout her career, MacRae says she's always been interested in enabling communication between people from different industries and parts of the world.

"I think that we share a small planet, and unless we understand each other and understand where our values intersect, it's difficult to share this small planet of ours," she says.

Her jobs in China have allowed her to travel far and wide, from China's eastern seaboard to the interior regions of Tibet and Xinjiang, as well as remote communities in the country's heartland.

The country is peppered with "pockets of challenge," so the NGO follows a certain process in order to choose the projects it will develop. Save the Children's global priorities are related to stopping preventable deaths of children under 5 years old; providing access to education; and protecting children from

abuse and violence. In these three areas, the NGO does situation analyses, then decides, based on its capabilities and presence in the country what projects to take on.

They might be as varied as training doctors in Tibet in neo-natal resuscitation; setting up education centers for children with special needs in the provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan and Xinjiang; or developing a mobile app that lets rural doctors know when a child has missed a scheduled vaccination.

Save the Children China gets most of its money from corporations, members and other foundations, but the Chinese government is its main partner, MacRae says. She says the relationship between Save the Children and the Chinese government has been constant over the past two decades, despite changes in diplomacy between UK and China. The NGO works to complement the government's work, present tried solutions, and bring in policy experts from abroad.

So has MacRae decoded how China works and how people who are different can understand each other? Somewhat.

"I think there's nothing more powerful than people working together on common projects," she says. In the past few decades, she's seen Chinese and foreigners work together successfully – mostly to attain bigger profits – but she believes the mixed teams method can be applied to big, challenging issues such as climate change, overuse of antibiotics and finding ways for children to benefit from economic development.

"I think if we have teams with different perspectives, different cultural outlooks, different political tools, different ways of doing things, we'll get better solutions," she says. ■





## Exhibition of South Korean Hanbok Opens in Beijing

BY WANG YAN

**A**n exhibition of South Korea's traditional costume arrived in Beijing on December 10 after stops in the Philippines and Spain.

Sponsored by the South Korean costume association, the exhibition featured more than 40 traditional hanbok, the Korean national costume.

Themed "The Legitimacy of South Korean Costume," the exhibition displayed more than 40 handmade traditional hanbok along with a series of mini-modules that presented the changes in South Korean costume from the 1500s to the 1900s.

Along with the exhibition, the Korean Culture Center also hosted a seminar on how to wear hanbok and its history at 4 pm on December 10. It introduced how hanbok is worn during marriage and funeral ceremonies, as well as on birthdays.

Models showed the visitors how to wear different costumes, and visitors were also given an opportunity to try on hanbok.

Kim Jin Gon, minister counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, attended the seminar.

"The South Korean Costume exhibition at the Korean Culture Center is the first permanent costume exhibition launched by overseas Korean Culture Center. The seminar and exhibition will serve as a good opportunity for Chinese people learn more about the Korean culture and its costume," Kim said.

The Korean Culture Center in Beijing is dedicated to promoting knowledge of South Korea. It welcomes the general public to experience the country's culture and history through specialized programs, sponsored events and learning resources. Its events serve as a bridge between Chinese people and South Korean culture. ■



Photos by Korean Culture Center

### Korean Culture Center

1 Guanghua Xili, Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

## Beyond Frozen Point Film Festival Reaches Beijing

BY SIMINA MISTREANU

**T**he Norwegian film festival Beyond Frozen Point, which depicts the lives of people in the polar region, ran from December 4 to 6 at the China Film Archive in Beijing.

Films screened at the festival introduced Chinese viewers to stories of the far north. Those selected highlighted issues such as the preservation of indigenous cultures, environmental risks and artistic creation.

Before arriving in Beijing, the festival toured Shanghai, Nanjing, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Xi'an.

The festival contained three parts: an opening film, the arctic shorts program and a special screening.



The opening film was *Youth from the High North*, a series of six short films



Photo by wikipedia

that included art and documentary films from Norway, Russia, Finland, Sweden

and Greenland.

The Arctic Shorts Program featured short films organized by categories that explored seasons in the arctic region; strange occurrences such as shootings and the odd tale of a group of children discovering a stranded porpoise; iconic people from the North; and the indigenous Sami people of Scandinavia, known for their nomadic lifestyle and reindeer herding.

Finally, the Special Screening featured the highly applauded movie *A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence*, by Roy Andersson. The strange, dreamlike film, shot from the perspective of a stuffed pigeon in a museum, aimed to reveal "what it's like to be human," according to the director. ■



## The Hidden City Game: Saved by the Bell



**I**mprobable Beijing Guidebook hosted its Hidden City Game: Saved by the Bell near Gulou in Beijing on December 6. Cadres from the Beijing Youth League and Beijing Youth Camp International and 300 foreign and Chinese people took part in the game.

Hidden City Game is a monthly treasure hunt set in Beijing's hutong. Themes and locations vary each month.

By completing various interesting tasks, foreign and Chinese participants can explore the city's charming and mysterious lanes, discover cozy cafes and hole-in-the-wall pubs.

This time, participants gathered at Modernista at 2 pm. They paired off in teams of two to four participants under a leader who was a member of the Hidden City Game WeChat group.

After receiving the instruction sheet and answer forms, each team started the game.

The instruction sheet had multiple questions and a navigation map. Participants were

instructed to visit parks, streets and sites following the map, and to complete tasks in specified places.

Careful observation of the surroundings at each location was necessary to answer the two to four questions related to each site. Answers were found on plaques, paintings and other objects around the site.

In Hidden City Game: Saved by the Bell, tasks included street performance, limbo dancing, cutting bamboo bicycles, making tin can phone calls and shaping dumplings at Mr. Shi's.

The street performance task challenged participants to create music with an ocarina, a flute and an improvised guqin created using a cardboard box and rubber bands. Participants who played well or attracted viewers earned more points.

Limbo dancing was at 1796 Bar & Cafe. Participants had to pass under the limbo pole with their backs against the floor.

At the bamboo bicycle event, players cut bamboo to

use in the frame of a bicycle at the Langjia Hutong shop.

The tin can phone challenge instructed participants to find a tin can phone in Mado Bar, listen to its music over the wire and write down the name of the song.

The dumpling folding challenge was one of the easiest to complete. Participants had to visit the famous dumpling restaurant Mr. Shi's and fold a dumpling that meets the restaurant's standard.

After completing the last task, team leaders must get a finish time from the timekeeper. Teams then returned to the starting point to hand in their answer sheets and wait for their scores.

Each team was allowed 150 minutes to finish all the tasks. Teams who were 20 minutes late were not eligible for prizes. ■

(By Shu Pengqian)



Photos by Beijing Today